

K-181

Big Marrowbone or Vianna  
Near Chesterville  
4th quarter 18th Century, 1st quarter 19th Century

John Woodall, Sr. bequeathed his home plantation to his son William in 1800, provided that he allow his mother to have the use of one room.<sup>1</sup> The home plantation consisted of parts of Vianna, Stepney and Stepney Fields. In the 1822 Tax Assessment it appears that William owned 218 acres of Vianna and 124 acres of the other two tracts combined. Both of the Woodalls were farmers.

The earliest part of the existing house was standing in the late 18th Century and may have been constructed by John Woodall, Sr. It consisted of a frame, three bay, gambrel roof structure which had been built over a full basement. There was an attached one story kitchen wing on the west gable. Both north and south facades were identical, with two windows flanking a central door on the first story and two dormers in the roof above. A brick chimney had been built within the west gable. The kitchen possessed a door and window with no dormers and a brick chimney within its west wall.

All of the corner posts and plates of the gambrel roof section mentioned above were exposed in the single room. In its northwest corner there was an enclosed stair adjacent the fireplace which led to the two chambers above—one with fireplace. In its earliest stage, the kitchen framing was unplastered and whitewashed and its floor level was several steps lower than the upper part.

During the occupancy of William Woodall, an east extension was

added continuing the line of the cornice and gambrel roof. Its facade had a door on the west and window on the east with two dormers above. In the east gable there was another chimney stack. The foundation of this section was built without basement and butted up to the older part of the house.

In its original form, the doors led to a corridor from front to back, off of which there was a parlor on the east and the old room on the west. Instead of installing a stair in the central hall, as would be expected for this period, a second enclosed stair was built in the northeast corner of the new room which led to a corridor and two chambers. An attempt at more privacy over the old section.

William Woodall died in 1845 and left the farm to his son Jesse.<sup>2</sup> His neighbor, Hezekiah Masten, who lived north of New Market on another part of Vianna, was a witness to his will. After Jesse took over the farm he bought additional acreage, extending the boundaries from the Chestertown-Millington Road on the south to the Chesterville-Millington Road on the north. Jesse Woodall appears on the 1860 map.

Soon after the map was printed, Jesse died and the farm descended to his daughters, Sara and Mary. Mary bought Sara's share in 1865<sup>3</sup> and apparently later married a Pennington, for "Mrs. Pennington" appears on the 1877 Atlas. Mary Woodall Pennington's only heir was Sarah V. Moffett, who in turn had three heirs. Jesse Moffett bought the other two thirds in 1923<sup>4</sup> and the farm has remained in his family ever since.

The name "Big Marrowbone" is probably derived from the fact that

Pearly Moffett, Sarah's husband, owned Marrowbone the farm adjoining to the south. They used "big" and "little" to differentiate between the two farms, until Marrowbone was sold in the 1950's. This farm is one of about a half dozen that has remained in the same family for over 200 years in Kent County.

1. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 120.
2. Wills, Lib. JFB 1, fol. 292.
3. Land Records, Lib. JKH 4, fol. 675.
4. Land Records, Lib. RRA 2, fol. 511.

K-181

1700-1799; 1800-1899

Big Marrowbone (Big Marylebone)

Near Chesterville

Private

Big Marrowbone, the name possibly a corruption of Marylebone, is on the east side of Route 290, the early "great road" from Georgetown Crossroads (Galena) through Chesterville (earlier New Market) to Henry Callister's import-export business at what is now Crumpton on the Chester River. It is at the head of what was once a small creek flowing south into the Chester River but is now insignificant. The house is frame and three-part. The western section is a 1-1/2 storey kitchen wing that has had three different floor levels. In the center is a three-bay-wide gambrel-roofed section with door in the center on both front and rear. Probably dating from the eighteenth century, it may be older than the kitchen wing and been raised from a 1-1/2 storey building with gable roof. To the east is a two-bay extension of the gambrel form. It appears to date from the nineteenth century. There are three chimneys. Very much altered as it was lived in over several centuries, the house at Big Marrowbone is significant for being an early building of modest proportions in its particular location. It also may be an example of a dwelling that began as a 1 or 1-1/2 storey building with gable roof but had the roof altered, or raised, to a gambrel in order to gain more space as the occupying family prospered or needs changed. There are very few early gambrel-roofed houses in the county. Some that are known to have existed are gone, such as K-210 that stood on the east side of the road to Browntown from Morgnec Road, north of the standing K-209, the C. Olin Powell House. There is a now gambrel-roofed house near Massey, K-163, White House Farm, which appears to have been raised and added to during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, creating a central-hall plan house with the addition of a hall and room next to the original section. This appears to have been the case here as well, though the interior was not seen.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Big Marrowbone

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 290, .5 mile south of Chesterville ☐ not for publicationcity, town Chesterville ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Jesse Moffett

street &amp; number 107 High Street telephone no.: 778-4305

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber WHG 21

street &amp; number Cross Street folio 109

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Site Inventory - HABS Inventory

date May 1970 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-181

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Big Marrowbone, the name possibly a corruption of Marylebone, is on the east side of Route 290, the early "great road" from Georgetown Crossroads (Galena) through Chesterville (earlier New Market) to Henry Callister's import-export business at what is now Crumpton on the Chester River. It is at the head of what was once a small creek flowing south into the Chester River but is now insignificant. The house is frame and three-part. The western section is a 1-1/2 story kitchen wing. In the center is a three-bay-wide gambrel-roofed section with door in the center on both front and rear. It may be older than the kitchen wing and been raised from a 1-1/2 story building with gable roof. To the east is a two-bay extension of the gambrel form. It appears to date from the nineteenth century. There are three chimneys.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. K-181

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Very much altered as it was lived in over several centuries, the house at Big Marrowbone is significant for being an early building of modest proportions in its particular location. It also may be an example of a dwelling that began as a 1 or 1-1/2 story building with gable roof but had the roof altered, or raised, to a gambrel in order to gain more space as the occupying family prospered or needs changed. There are very few early gambrel-roofed houses in the county. Some that are known to have existed are gone, such as K-210 that stood on the east side of the road to Browntown from Morgnec Road, north of the standing K-209, the C. Olin Powell House. There is a now gambrel-roofed house near Massey, K-163, White House Farm, which appears to have been raised and added to during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, creating with the addition of a hall and room next to the original section a central-hall plan house. This appears to have been the case here as well, though the interior was not seen.

This farm has long been in the same family. Big Marrowbone was related in some way to a farm known as Little Marrowbone (K-179), located between the Chester River and the River Road, which lies to the south of Big Marrowbone. The old house at Little Marrowbone has been demolished. In 1860 Jesse Woodall was shown on the Martenet map of Kent County as the owner of this farm (an ancestor of the husband of the present owner). By 1877, the year of the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas, a Mrs. Pennington is shown there. She may have been a Woodall daughter. The team-haul community for this farm would have been the nearby crossroads village of Chesterville (called New Market before about 1848), where there were stores, a school, churches, and a hotel. Chesterville prospered during the eighteenth and at least part of the nineteenth century but declined in the twentieth. Most of the old buildings are gone, victims of highway department enlarging of the intersection.

Survey No. K-181



The house at Big Marrowbone has been so altered on the exterior that it is difficult to tell much about it, though the cellar is somewhat revelatory. The exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles applied over horizontal, lapped weatherboard. While there is one small area where the shingles are absent, it is not large enough to discern the nature of the weatherboard beneath, whether tapered or beaded, for instance. All sections are covered with the shingles.

The central, gambrel-roofed section is three bays wide on front and rear facades. Windows that are double-hung and have 6-over-6 lights are in each side bay. In the roof are two shed dormers with the shed roof proceeding, as usual, from the place where the roof pitch was changed. The dormers are placed slightly inward from the side bays below, which are evenly spaced on either side of the central entry.

The middle, gambrel-roofed section is the only part of the house with a cellar, and it has been considerably reworked and repaired. Bricks remain as the foundation wall on three sides, but on the north side half of the wall's height has been removed and replaced with concrete blocks. Apparently the source of the problem here was persistent, excessive moisture. The first-storey joists seen from the cellar are hand-sawn (probably pit-sawn) and are about 8-1/2" x 2-3/4". They are on about 23-24" centers. A summer beam with jack support has recently been added. Floorboards of the first storey seen overhead are about 6-9" random width. The west end chimney base is considerably altered, partly removed and with additions. It now serves as the flue for a modern furnace. The arch is gone, though the pilasters remain, with their ledges for centering for construction and/or shelving. The arch may have been segmental. The opening is about 55" wide.

There is a small opening through which one can see part of the crawl space of the kitchen wing, where there have been numerous alterations. There were two floors that were lower than the present floor, which was raised in the middle twentieth-century to omit the step(s) between the kitchen wing and the adjoining section. However, beneath the last floor, which was simply covered over, there are indications of a still-lower former floor, evidently quite early. Remaining parts are hewn. The lower ends of the posts and studs can be seen. They are whitewashed, indicating that the room initially was used with unfinished walls--simply frame and outer covering. When the floor was raised the first time, at least the front wall was extended outward by at least 10". It was not clear whether or not this is an independent section of the house and thus possibly pre-dating the early gambrel section. The crawl space under the kitchen is very shallow. Several fieldstones can be seen in the vicinity of the center of the joist span, also numerous loose bricks. The chimney base cannot be seen; dirt and rubble appears to be piled there. There has been some repair to the brick foundation under the kitchen, with concrete blocks. Since the kitchen floor was last raised (evidently with accompanying raising of the ceiling as well), the loft above is said to be virtually unusable for lack of head room.


The two-bay east gambrel addition appears to date from the nineteenth century. Joists are 3" x 9" and appear to have marks from an up-and-down  
(continued)

saw. The sills are hewn. The headers around the chimney base are mortise-and-tenoned and pegged, with the edges of the tenon carefully chamfered. There is now an added summer beam, evidently added when the foundation was rebuilt. The foundation of this area, around a crawl space, is now mostly built of block. It is three-sided, the fourth side of the foundation being the cellar foundation wall of the adjacent older gambrel-roofed section.

There are three chimneys. The east chimney, at the east end of the added gambrel-roofed section is within the wall. It is large and built of brick, with a metal stovepipe protruding. It may be rebuilt. There is now no cap nor any other decorative element. A chimney is also at the west end of the older gambrel-roofed section, within the wall. Its base is the altered one seen in the cellar. It is built of brick but has a wooden "cap." It appears at least partially rebuilt. The third chimney is small and in the west end of the kitchen wing. It is not likely that it now serves a fireplace. It is of a size intended for use with a stove. Given the evidence in the cellar, it is likely to be a replacement chimney. It is parged and has a two-course cap.

There are three entries into the north, main-approach side. All have modern doors and trim removed or covered when the siding was done. The window sills of the old gambrel section are very thin and are replacements. The old ones are said to have been heavy and pegged. Some of the windows have trim backband of ovolo with fillets, which may or may not be old. Shutters are not now in the rear, where hinge mortises appear to be in the trim.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

<p>10-445 62)</p> <p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>          COUNTY <u>Kent</u>          TOWN <u>Chesterville</u> VICINITY          STREET NO. <u>Rt 290, .3 mile North of intersection with Rt 291</u>          ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u>          PRESENT OWNER <u>Jesse W. Moffett</u>          PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u>          NO. OF STORIES <u>1 1/2</u></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>H-181</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>Hollett House</u>          DATE OR PERIOD <u>18th Cent</u>          STYLE          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hollett House is a long gambrel-roof frame structure with a kitchen wing (one story) on its west gable.</b></p> <p>There seems to be at least two periods of building: the oldest appearing to be the three symmetrical bays in the center (between the kitchen and the other three assymetrical bays). The entire structure rests on a brick foundation, partly replaced by concrete block. The sides are sheathed with white asbestos and the roof with green asphalt composition shingles. The trim is painted green to match the roof. Windows have mostly 2/2 sash some 6/6.</p> <p>A brick chimney is located at each end of the gambrel roof and one small chimney on the west side of the kitchen. A small frame shed (milk house or smoke house?) is located to the south of the kitchen and is connected therewith by a roof-</p> <p>It is well maintained from a useful point of view-</p>			
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <u>NO</u>    Interior    Exterior <u>good</u></p>			
<p> 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p>		<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>	
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>		<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u>  DATE OF RECORD <u>May, 1970</u></p>	

## Hollett Farm - K-181

Hollett House is a long gambrel-roof frame structure with a kitchen wing (1-story) on its west gable.

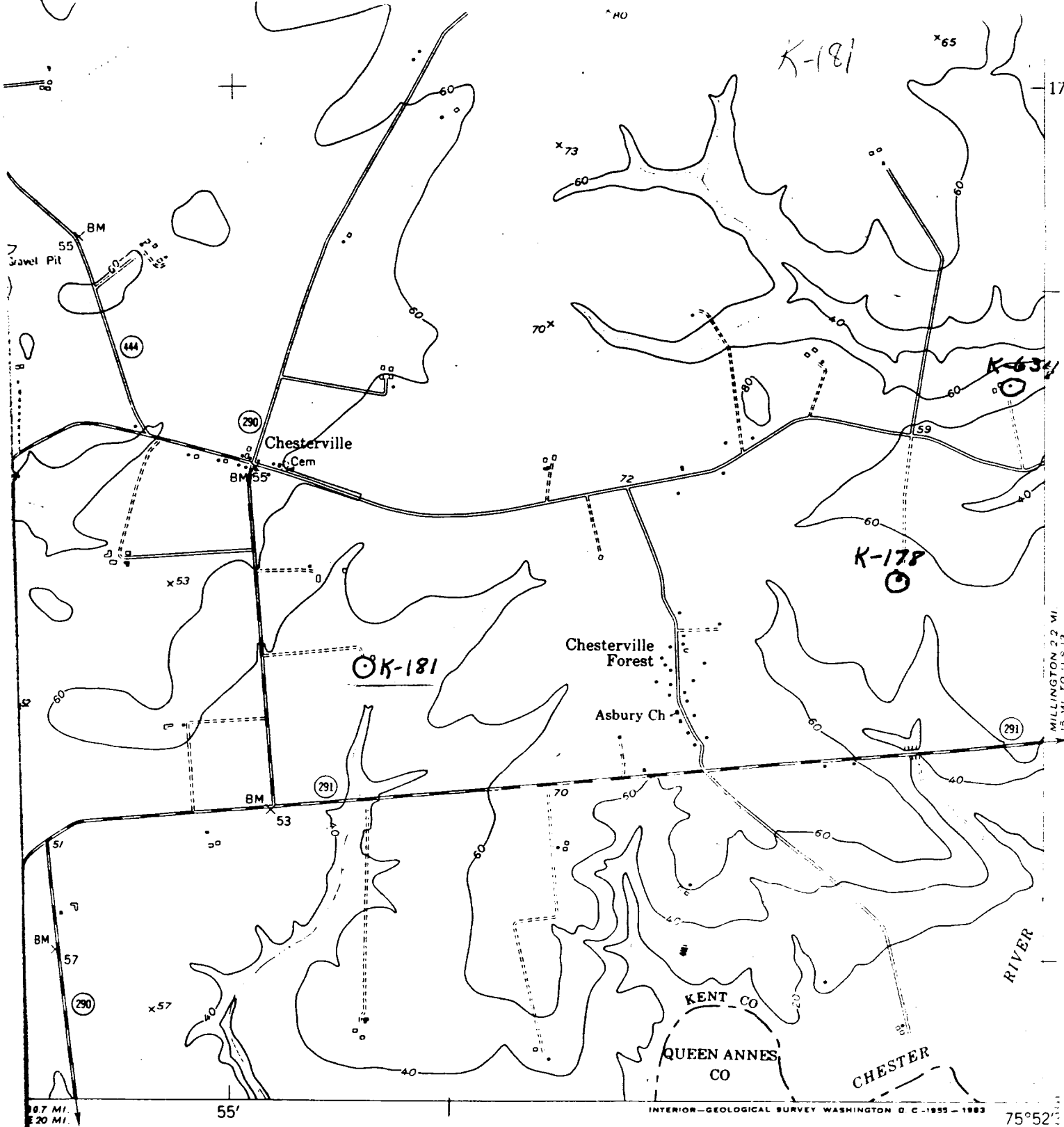
There seems ~~to~~ to be at least two periods of building: the oldest appearing to be the 3 symmetrical bays in the center (between the kitchen and the other 3 asymmetrical bays). The entire structure rests on a brick foundation, partly replaced by concrete block.

The sides are sheathed with white asbestos and the roof with green asphalt composition shingles. The trim is painted green to match the roof. Windows have mostly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch - some  $\frac{1}{6}$ .

A brick chimney is located at each end of the gambrel roof and one small chimney on the west side of the kitchen. A small frame shed (milk house or smoke house?) is <sup>located</sup> ~~connected~~ to the south ~~side~~ of the kitchen + is connected therewith by a roof —

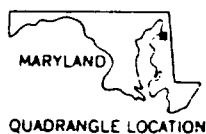
It is well maintained from a useful point of view —

mos 5/19/70



#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		4 LANE 16 LANE	Light-duty	
Medium-duty		4 LANE 16 LANE	Unimproved dirt	
		U. S. Route		State Route



#### GALENA, MD.

SW/4 CECILTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3915-W7552.5/7.5  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1974  
1953



K-181

Big Marrowbone

Rt. 290, near Chesterville

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/10/85

View to southwest

K181  
#17  
see w/ PC 2 1/2





K-181

Big Marrowbone

Rt. 290, near Chesterville

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/10/85

View to south

14181

#15A

10 sec w / 2 1/2 P.C.F.